

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computer system having a user interface containing at least one resource string associated with data, a method comprising the steps of:

using the at least one resource string to retrieve the data, the data containing at least one parameter associated with at least one element of the user interface, the at least one parameter being integrated into a syntactical structure associated with the data;

replacing the resource string with the retrieved data;

obtaining the at least one user interface element;

replacing the parameter with the at least one element; and

outputting the data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface, and the obtaining step involves obtaining at least one graphical user interface component.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein using the at least one resource string to retrieve the data involves using the at least one resource string as a key to retrieve the data from a database.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining involves creating the at least one user interface element.

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5. In a computer system having a user and a graphical user interface containing at least one resource string, a method comprising:

- identifying a locale associated with the user or the computer system;
- using the resource string to retrieve data associated with the user's locale,

wherein the data contains at least one parameter associated with at least one component of the user interface, the at least one parameter being integrated into a syntactical structure associated with the data;

- replacing the resource string with the data;
- obtaining the at least one component of the user interface;
- replacing the at least one parameter with the at least one component; and
- outputting the data.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein using the at least one resource string to retrieve data involves using the at least one resource string as a key to retrieve the data from a database.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein obtaining involves creating the at least one component of the user interface.

8. The method of claim 5, further including allowing the user to input a query via an input device, wherein the retrieving step is performed in response to the query.

9. A computer system comprising:

a memory containing:

a user interface program containing at least one resource string representing a data element, the data element containing at least one parameter associated with at least one component of the user interface program, wherein the user interface program:

replaces the resource string with the data element; and

replaces the at least one parameter with the at least one user interface component;

a display device for displaying the data element; and

a processor for running the user interface program.

10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the user interface program is a graphical user interface.

11. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the data element is a textual message.

12. The computer system of claim 10, wherein the at least one component includes a graphical user interface component.

13. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the user interface program creates the at least one component of the user interface program.

14. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the user interface program retrieves the at least one component of the user interface program.

15. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the user interface program retrieves the data element.

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16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the user interface program uses the resource string as a key to retrieve the data element from a database.

17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the database is remotely located with respect to the computer system.

18. A computer system comprising:
a memory comprising a user interface program, source code, and a compiler,
the user interface program containing at least one resource string
representing data, the data containing at least one parameter associated with at
least one component of a user interface,

the source code configured to:

retrieve the data associated with the at least one resource string;

replace the at least one resource string with the retrieved data;

obtain the at least one component of the user interface; and

replace the at least one parameter with the at least one component of
the user interface, and

the compiler configured to compile the user interface program into object
code; and

at least one processor for executing the user interface program, the source
code, and the compiler.

19. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the user interface is a
graphical user interface and the at least one component is a graphical user interface
component.

20. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the data is associated with a locale and the class contains methods for identifying the locale.

21. The computer system of claim 18, wherein the class further contains methods for creating the at least one component of the user interface.

22. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method, the computer system having a user interface and a processor for executing the instructions, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving at least one message containing at least one parameter, wherein said parameter represents at least one element of the user interface and is integrated into a syntactical structure associated with the message;

replacing the at least one parameter with the at least one element; and
making available to a user the at least one message.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface, the retrieving step involves retrieving a textual message, and the at least one element includes a graphical user interface component.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the retrieving step involves retrieving the at least one message from a database.

25. The method of claim 22, further including creating the at least one element of the user interface.

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